



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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May 30, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – YOU ARE THE
DIFFERENCE FOUNDATION – LOVING LIFE I & II GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Loving Life I and II Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by You Are The Difference Foundation, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Loving Life I is an eight-bed facility, and Loving Life II is a six-bed facility. Each home provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Loving Life I was providing services for eight Los Angeles County Probation children. Loving Life II was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Loving Life I and II Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the following deficient areas:

Both Group Homes need to include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; develop Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive, and include short and long-term goals; and ensure all children are encouraged and assisted in maintaining photo albums/life books.

Loving Life Group Home II needs to replace the grout in the upstairs bathroom; repair or replace the wall panels in bedroom two; and paint the patched areas in bedroom two.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Billie Woods, Executive Director, You Are The Difference Foundation, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Loving Life I Group Home
700 South Burris Avenue
Compton, California 90221
Phone: (310) 608-0150
License Number: 191600183
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Loving Life I Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations**1. You Are The Difference Foundation management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long- term goals for all children.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 2. You Are The Difference Foundation management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

**Loving Life II Group Home
9601 South Hobart
Los Angeles, California 90047
Phone: (323) 757-9491
License Number: 191600183
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Loving Life II Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the upstairs bathroom the grout around the tile and tub is missing.

Children's bedrooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedroom two, the ceiling paint is cracked, the wall panels have gaps, and the door and wall have unpainted patch repairs.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. You Are The Difference Foundation management:

- a. Replace the grout in the upstairs bathroom.**
- b. Replace or repair the wall panels in bedroom two.**
- c. Paint the ceiling and patched areas in bedroom two.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. You Are The Difference Foundation management:

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop current and comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long- term goals for all children.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. You Are The Difference Foundation management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**



Loving Life Home

700 S. Burris Ave Compton, CA 90221 (310) 608-0150 Fax (310) 608-6920

February 15, 2006

J. Tyler Mc Cauley, Auditor -Controller
Elaine Clark, Group Home Ombudsman
Kenneth Hahn Hall Of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 525
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Loving Life Home, Compton

We are in receipt of the audit for Loving Life Home conducted on December 16, 2005. In the review there were three recommendation that we would like to respond to

- 1) Repair the grout in the upstairs bathroom, replace or repair the wall panel in bedroom two and lastly repair and paint the patch marks area in the bedroom

Since the review all of the above items have been repaired and or replaced.

- 2) Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development of the needs and service plan, develop current and comprehensive Need and Service Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short term goals for all children

Since the review we have facilitated and implemented a process of input from the Treatment Team and the child in the development of the needs and service plan. We have also implemented periodic documentation training with our social work staff to assist in the development of comprehensive needs and service plans and reinforcement standards using our program consultant.

- 3) As a provider to probation youth for over 20 years, and most of the children serviced were detained for a crime and return home so there has not been a need for photo albums for our residents. If we service a child from the DCFS system we will certainly assist in helping that minor to create and maintain a photo life book.

Loving Life Home appreciates the opportunity to respond to these recommendations, and will continue to not only train staff but work closely with consultants and probation staff to receive the most updated information regarding documentation requirements.

We thank the auditor controller's group home supervisor, Candance Rhue, and auditor Elaine Clarke for their time in working with me and my staff. If you have additional question please feel free to contact me at (310) 608-0150 or (714) 396-9901.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Billie Woods



Loving Life II

9601 Hobart Blvd Los Angeles Ca 90047 (323) 757-9491 Fax (323) 757-9191

February 15, 2006

J. Tyler Mc Cauley, Auditor - Controller
Elaine Clark, Group Home Ombudsman
Kenneth Hahn Hall Of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 525
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Loving Life Home 11 Los Angeles

We are in receipt of the audit for Loving Life Home conducted on January 09, 2006. In the review there were three recommendations that we would like to respond to

- 1) Repair the grout in the upstairs bathroom, replace or repair the wall panel in bedroom two and lastly repair and paint the patch marks area in the bedroom

Since the review all of the above items have been repaired and or replaced.

- 2) Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development of the needs and service plan, develop current and comprehensive Need and Service Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short term goals for all children

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Loving Life Home appreciates the opportunity to respond to these recommendations, and will continue to not only train staff but work closely with consultants and probation staff to receive the most updated information regarding documentation requirements.

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Sincerely,

Executive Director
Billie Woods